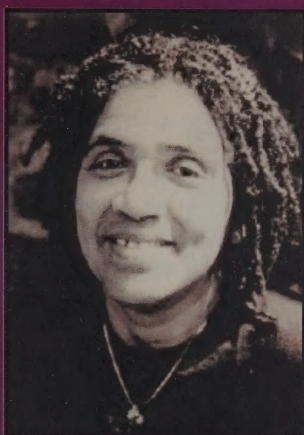
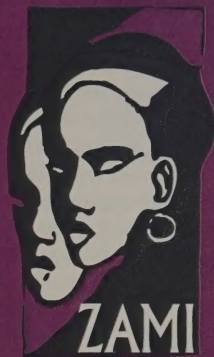


The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund

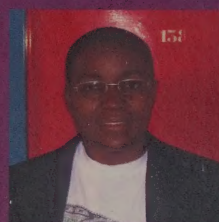
September 29, 2008



Audre Lorde

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."

~Audre Lorde



ZAMI: A Carriacou word for women who work together as friends and lovers...

The 2008 Audre Lorde Scholarship Program

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund was founded by ZAMI Board Chair Mary Anne Adams in 1995. Since then, the fund has awarded over \$145,000 in scholarships to out LGBT students who are making notable contributions to their communities. The Scholarship Fund is named in honor of acclaimed author and poet Audre Lorde (1934-1992). She is internationally known as a significant contributor to the struggle for Lesbian and Gay rights and Women's liberation.

For the 13th consecutive year, ZAMI, Inc., the Atlanta organization for lesbians of African descent, is giving scholarships to students within the United States. This year, for the first time, ZAMI has broadened its reach, honoring its first international student – from West Africa. ZAMI feels the world is a much smaller place, due in large part to the emergence of the Internet, with students using the worldwide web to reach out.

The thirteen 2008 Scholarship Recipients, from across the country and now “the world” have been granted scholarships of up to \$2000. Their package also includes transportation to Atlanta and residency accommodations for the celebratory weekend.

Five of the scholarships are named in honor or memory of someone special to the community or the donor. The rest are named in honor of the donor(s). Funds from these and other donors are used to fund this Scholar Weekend, including airfare, lodging, food and program expenses.

HONORARY AWARDS

Mary Anne Adams Community Organizing Award



Mary Anne Adams is board chair and former executive director of ZAMI, Inc. She is the founder and primary organizer of its national Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund for LGBT students of color. A native of Mississippi, she has lived in Atlanta since 1988, during which time she has served on the boards of Charis Circle, YouthPride, and the Feminist

Women's Health Center. She was also an inaugural member of the LGBT Advisory Council to the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Adams holds a Master of Social Work Degree and is a program director with Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health in addition to running her own research development company, The Adams Research Group. She was the first out Black lesbian to win an award as an Unsung Heroine from the metro Atlanta Coalition of 100 black women. Adams has also been honored by the National Center for Human Rights Education as a guardian angel of human rights. A recent breast cancer survivor, she lives her struggle out loud as a tool for education and empowerment. She currently serves as an inaugural member of Susan G. Komen for the Cure National LGBT Advisory Council.

This award is funded by Carol Harrison and Stephanie Troncalli to honor the work of their dear friend and inspiration, Mary Anne

Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award



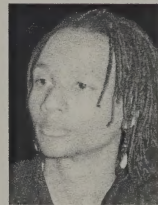
Mandy Carter, a self-described southern out Black lesbian social justice activist, has worked in multi-racial, multi-issue grassroots organizing for the last 39 years. In 1993, she co-founded Southerners On New Ground (SONG) whose purpose is to build progressive movement across the South by developing transformative models of

organizing that connect race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality identity. Carter was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee as part of the “1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005” to recognize, make visible and celebrate the impressive and valuable, yet often invisible, peace work of thousands of women around the world. She lives in Durham, North Carolina.

This award is funded by Germaine Curtin.

MEMORIAL AWARDS

Tony Daniels Community Ally Award



Anthony C. Daniels (1965 – 1998), was one of Atlanta's most powerful organizers and activists. Daniels was a founder of In The Life Atlanta, Inc., of ADODI Muse, Inc., and of the Black Lesbian & Gay Poets Society.

This scholarship is funded by ADODI Muse, Inc: a Gay Negro Ensemble, the Black Gay Male Performance Poets'

Collective. Muse members, Duncan E. Teague, Malik M.L. Williams and Anthony Antoine specifically recognize Daniels' work to build bridges across diverse communities.

The Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award

Margaret Ntombi Howell (1951-2003), as a national spokesperson, transformed the concept of recovery into a universal human experience for all people. She was an advocate and activist for the rights of women, people of color and the poor.

This award is funded by Rhesa Jenkins and Ama Saran.

Margaret Helfand Memorial Award

Margaret Helfand was a Manhattan architect and urban planner who has been recognized worldwide for her innovative approach to design of institutional buildings, interiors, and college campuses. Her designs emphasize clean elemental forms, the use of natural materials and the integration of her buildings with the surrounding landscape. Ms.



Helfand spent the bulk of her career practicing at her own firm, Helfand Architecture, founded in 1981. Breaking through gender typecasting which often relegates female architects to designing houses and interiors, she has executed many large-scale institutional and commercial works. Her firm's designs have won many awards and her work is honored in a monograph published in 1999 by Monacelli Press.

This award is funded by her sister Judy Helfand.

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS



Cherie Caldwell is Managing Director, Human Resources at Delta Air Lines, Inc. Caldwell has global responsibility for Talent Acquisition, Retention and Diversity for the fastest growing international passenger airline carrier. She is accountable for building global strategies and implementing programs to optimize the hiring and retention of critical

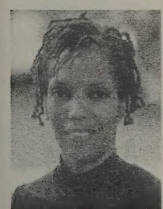
and diverse talent. Caldwell graduated with honors from the University of Maryland where she majored in Human Resources Management. She currently holds a professional SPHR certification and lives in Atlanta.



Linda Bryant, co-founder of Charis Books and Charis Circle, has been lovingly involved with ZAMI since its inception. Her formal education is in English from the University of Florida and in theology from the Candler School of Theology at Emory, but her life lessons come from her years of daily engagement with the wonderfully

diverse and committed community she meets at Charis, from her long-term love with Wendy Belkin, and from being a parent and now grandparent. Bryant's desire to serve Spirit with integrity and grace is at the heart of her life. **Wendy**

Belkin was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She took her last accounting final in August, 1979, got in her car, and drove to Atlanta. She has been here ever since. Belkin practices law and accounting in her own small practice in Decatur and has been a long supporter of Charis Books, Charis Circle, and ZAMI. She is an amateur astronomer and photographer.



Sheryl Burke is a Personal Injury Attorney who operates her own law practices based in Georgia and California. Burke, a native of Los Angeles, California, is a graduate of St. Louis University Law School and is a member of the National and Georgia Trial Lawyers' Association.



Rhesa Jenkins is a Stanford educated scientist with a commitment to continuous education in community settings, such as CAU and ANDP's Ford Foundation program in



Community Economic Development. **Ama Saran's** work is best described as a social ministry that teaches the importance of researching community health, mental and physical, to support the efforts of non-profit organizations in creation of sustainable institutions.



Sarah Crymes is a business woman specializing in healthcare administration (MBA/MHSA from University of Michigan). Her passion is building lesbian and feminist communities in Atlanta. She is currently serving as board chair for Charis Circle and previously served as board chair for Fourth Tuesday. **Rhonda Freeman**, Ph.D, is an engineer who loves all things related to math and science. She also loves her home state of Florida, poodles, swimming and her family. She has been known to have an obsession with puzzles.



Kerrie Cotten Williams is the Archivist for the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History. Williams has a range of experience as a researcher and preservation assistant with rare books and manuscripts, and has taught university-level courses in U.S. History, African-American History and Expository Writing. In New York, while pursuing her Ph.D in American History at New York University, she worked as a docent for the Lower East Side Museum and Big Onion Walking Tours. Kerrie works with individuals and organizations to make certain that their stories are remembered and retold. **Brenda S. Banks** is an

independent archives consultant whose current projects include serving as managing archivist for the Morehouse College, Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection; project manager for SOLINET's Gulf Coast Academic Library Recovery Project; and senior project archivist for the Audre Lorde Collection at Spelman College. She is the former Deputy Director of the Georgia Archives where she was responsible for administering the archives program. Banks is a graduate of Spelman College where she received a BA in history and has a Masters in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in archival management, from Atlanta University.





Germaine Curtin, owner of Germaine Curtin & Associates, Attorneys at Law – a practice limited to business matters. She is admitted to practice before the New York, California, North Carolina and Georgia Bars. Ms. Curtin received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Albany and her J.D. degree from Albany

Law School of Union University. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Sandra B. Jones, Ph.D. is from Houston, Texas. Her professional career has been national and international. She provided clinical practice in pediatrics at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, Texas; academic teaching at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; research at the Colorado Sickle Cell Research and Treatment Center; and international work in Japan and Kuwait University. She currently works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention managing cooperative agreements with departments of education at the state and local level implementing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in schools. Her passion is health literacy among children and adolescents.



Ronald Moore recently retired from Hewlett Packard after 26 years in a myriad of roles focused mostly in human resources. He presently works with the Kimberly-Clark Company as its Diversity and Inclusion Director. Moore has been involved in various Metro Atlanta organizations, including the Board of

Directors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Medical Center, and Project Open Hand (serving meals to people living with HIV/critical illnesses). A native of Detroit, Michigan, Ronald received a B.A. – Communications, an M.A. – Counseling, and a M.A. – Labor and Industrial Relations—all from Michigan State University. He resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Founded in 1972 (and functioning through 1994), **ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance)** was the first publicly out lesbian organization in Atlanta. Its founding members came from many different social justice and activist backgrounds, including the women's liberation, anti-war/peace, anti-imperialist and socialist, civil rights, and gay liberation movements. It established the first women's only space in the region and made the space available not only for ALFA meetings, consciousness-raising groups and events, but for other lesbian and feminist groups.



Elder Jones proudly serves as the pastor of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church (who funded this award) located in Southwest Atlanta. In addition to his work as a pastor Elder Jones also served as a member of the Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Health Care Services Planning Council, Pastoral Care Department of AID Atlanta at Grady

Hospital, President of the Board of Directors for the National Aids Education and Services for Minorities (NAESM) and a member of the Advisory Board of United Way, Inc. Elder Jones is also a Georgia State Department of Human Resources Certified HIV Prevention Counselor and a Certified HIV Fundamentals Instructor. From 1999 -2001 Elder Jones served as Chair of In the Life Atlanta, Inc. the organization the produces Black Pride in Atlanta each year. During his tenure as Co-Chair he was able to convince Hartsfield Airport to display a banner to welcome the constituents of Black Pride. This was the first time in the history of Black Gay Pride that this had ever happened.

Stephanie Troncalli and Carol Harrison have been impressed and inspired by ZAMI for many years,



supporting their efforts as much as possible through their design firm, TH Design. Stephanie, a Georgia State graduate, is currently a Product Director with Eclipsys Corporation, a healthcare software solutions company with clients nationwide. She is also working on her Masters in Public Health degree with a focus on Disaster Management. Carol who attended the University of South Florida in Tampa, and "retired" from her previous life in corporate management, heads up their graphic design firm in Decatur. They are honored to be able to support ZAMI this year with funding for the inaugural year of the Mary Anne Adams scholarship award – for the first international scholar. In their 16 years together they have shared their vision and support with numerous nonprofit and political efforts and are pleased to have the opportunity for this enhanced relationship with ZAMI this year.



Fourth Tuesday is a diverse, nonprofit organization serving the LGBT community in Atlanta and the Southeast. It has been dedicated to providing a safe, caring, and welcoming environment for business networking and social events for over 20 years. **The Atlanta Lesbian**

Health Initiative promotes the health and well-being of lesbians through education, advocacy and support services.



**ATLANTA
LESBIAN
HEALTH
INITIATIVE**

The 2008 Audre Lorde Scholars



Loc Vu, recipient of the **Rhonda Freeman-Sarah Crymes Award** and the **Elder Antonio Jones Award**, is working towards a Masters degree in Business Administration from West Valley College in Saratoga, California. Vu and her family were resettled from Vietnam by the United States during the war torn years. She shares that the feat

of trying to find her way in this country was very difficult. "My family was stripped of our identity and culture but my parents held steadfast to traditional family roles and expectations and I learned early that to be different meant non-acceptance." Vu said she had to overcome internalized homophobia and family discrimination to find acceptance for her sexuality. "My proudest personal experience was finding acceptance within myself to live as a Vietnamese queer woman." She has utilized her Bachelor's degree in Psychology by volunteering with youth and adults who are dealing with coming out issues and need a safe harbor.

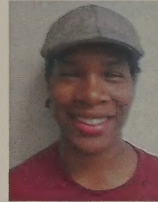
Dawn Robinson, recipient of the **Sheryl Burke Award**, recently returned to college to complete her undergraduate degree after a 25 year hiatus. She enrolled in Berkeley City College in Berkeley, California where she is studying English and Creative Writing. Accordingly to Robinson, "I have spent the past 25 years attending to what Abraham Maslow calls 'deficiency needs': physiological, safety, love/ belonging and esteem. In each area, I have accomplished well beyond my family legacy." Most recently, she has shared her expertise as a Personal Trainer with butch, transitioning and transgender folks in order to help stem the tide of heart disease and Type2 diabetes. She believes lack of healthy self-care is the largest obstacle we face and that we have the power to change – that when we care for our bodies, our minds and our spirits. Robinson says, "Wars, poverty, homophobia or disease do irreparable damage, to be sure, but even these cannot completely eradicate us, that is why our own behavior is the larger threat. Healthy physical and emotional self-care means that we will be here for ourselves, our friends and our families. Here, not just surviving on the planet, but fully present, conscious beings. We can do something revolutionary in America, yet again. We can be whole."



At 29 years of age, **Kendra Nicole Bryant**, recipient of the **Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotten Williams Award** has spent the last ten of them teaching high school and college students. Currently pursuing a PhD in English Rhetoric and Composition, at the University of South Florida in Tampa, with Concentrations in Rhetorical Pedagogy,

Popular Culture, and Harlem Renaissance, Bryant asserts that one of the major problems facing the LGBT community is

its youth's struggle to claim their identity in this postmodern society. "Because I realize the need for children and young adults to witness lesbian women who do not fit the stereotypes as portrayed in mass communications, I have committed myself to being an "out of the closet" instructor. As a result, I have participated in LGBT discussion panels on University of South Florida's campus, as well as shared poetry that reveals my sexual identity during various poetry readings throughout the Tampa Bay area." She founded a nonprofit organization geared towards freeing marginalized, downtrodden people of color through writing initiatives. Bryant calls her organization F.I.S.T., which is an acronym for Fightin' Ignorance, Spittin' Truth.



Jardyn Lake, recipient of the **Mandy Carter Award** is in her last year of a Bachelor's program at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania focusing on African American Studies. She comes from a family of powerful, brilliant, and independent women. "Unfortunately, most of the women in my family have lived lives of selfless labor and have never had the opportunity to go to college. But they have always instilled in me the notion that education is a means of liberation." However, Lake says that despite the boldness of the women in her family, the general belief is that women are to be seen and not heard. "I refuse to let my life be dictated by these limiting roles. The present patriarchy perpetuated within my family has certainly made me strive to redefine what it means to be a woman and challenge patriarchy around me. I also try to build alliances and friendships with women who actively resist patriarchy." Those alliances have been build through leadership training opportunities with Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Seeds of Fire: Youth Organizing & Leadership Institute, Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN) Inc., Jacksonville Playback Theatre, Metrotown Teen Diversity and the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC).

As the first female in her family to attend college, **Tyaire Wilkerson**, recipient of the **Fourth Tuesday/ Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative Award** is in her first year at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida where she is studying English/ Writing. Her primary goal is to become a published writer of poetry and short stories. Wilkerson maintains that writing her Memoirs is a very important goal because she wants to use her life story as an example of courage and achievement. "My mother has never and will never accept my sexual orientation. She believes it is a great sin against God. She demeans my relationships and calls the love I feel for my girlfriend a mockery. Because of her outrage and indifference, I have learned to accept all cultures and people for who they are. I now fight for LGBT rights and for other



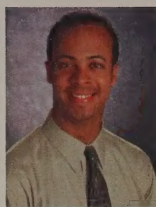
people who are discriminated against every day.” She asserts, “It is not my job to worry about what the world will think of me. It is my job to tell the truth. To be open and vulnerable because I know that there’s some girl or boy out there looking just like I did, to someone or something for comfort.”



David Green, recipient of the **Tony Daniels Community Ally Award** is working toward a Masters degree in African American Studies with a concentration in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. For several years, he has given his energy to Habitat for Humanity and the AIDS

Network and is currently working with students at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee to get a Queer People of Color (QPOC) established on its campus. Green exclaims that teaching and educating others are his life’s passions melding both his race and sexuality in the pursuit of justice. “Due to the hegemonic and divisive systems at play in America, systems that deny African Americans and gay men and women ‘equal opportunity’ I have chosen to become an EDUCATOR, not simply a university professor or a teacher. I can profess my love for books and teach a student the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. But to educate a person, man or woman, heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or transgender is to teach them the value of love of self and of others; the true purpose of activism.”

Yolo Akili, recipient of the **Linda Bryant & Wendy Belkin Award** is well known as a social justice advocate and for fighting against human rights abuses. He currently serves on the Atlanta Queer Literary Festivals Board Committee and is also a founder of ATL Queer Men’s Collective, which is a group, dedicated to addressing male privilege and sexism in Queer communities. He is also a co-founder of Da C.R.I.B.B, a community center for Queer youth dedicated to HIV Prevention in the metro Atlanta area and regularly performs poetry all across the country on LGBTQ issues and healing for the larger world community. Akili is studying Iyengar Yoga Theory & Practice at the Yoga of India in Atlanta. He says, “Studying Yoga philosophy and practice is a part of my desire to expand that reach of resistance work to also include the ‘everyday work’ of self care, self knowledge, self healing and self-awareness. It has been my experience as an activist that these two vehicles for liberation have had limited dialogue with each other. This, I believe, has caused major strife and limitations in our abilities as a collective to effectively organize. As a Yogi I plan to work principally with underprivileged communities and ‘revolutionaries’ to help them deal with the stressors of their lives.”

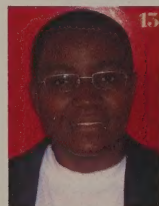


Joshua Johnson, recipient of the **Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award** is a first year Law student with a minor in Social Justice and Public Interest at the University of California at Berkeley. He is emphatic that his identity as a Black gay male is critical to framing his unique experiences. “Young Black men in this country are underrepresented

in academia, especially law school. Being a gay man of color, my concerns as a law student will be different from many others’, and I will contribute a pool of knowledge and a perspective that is not always represented. In South Los Angeles, many people who come from backgrounds similar to mine think that higher education is not for them. My ability to overcome that mindset lets me know that with persistence, I can disrupt the cycle of low educational attainment by not only advancing myself, but also empowering others.” Reared by a single mother in a socio-economically disadvantaged household, Johnson was the first in his household to earn a bachelor’s degree and was also able to study abroad in Spain after mastering Spanish. Ever vigilant against injustice, he has spent many volunteer hours tutoring at risk children, working on HIV/AIDS issues, and providing Spanish Interpreting skills at a Children’s hospital. “I have an obligation to use my privileges to be a voice for those who have become accustomed to living in the periphery.”

Kristen Brown, recipient of the **Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award** funded by Rhessa M.

Jenkins & Ama Saran is pursuing a PhD degree in Public Administration and Policy from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She wants to devote her academic and professional life to policy issues that specifically affect LGBT people, working toward a day when their human rights will no longer be debated. She is headed toward becoming perhaps the first openly gay African American and the first openly lesbian female to publish in the field of public administration and policy specifically on LGBT policy issues. Brown’s research interests include health policy, particularly HIV prevention and services for African American LGBT people. Her specific area of focus is communication for African American lesbian and bisexual women in the area of sexuality – including relationships, pleasure, safer sex, and sexual health and well being.



Sylvie Victoire, a graduate student at the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering in Burkina Faso, West Africa is the recipient of the **Mary Anne Adams Community Organizing Award** funded by Carol Harrison and Stephanie Troncalli. She writes of the enormous struggle to study Engineering

dominated by men in the Cameroon. “Obtaining an education is the only way to support myself without having to depend on men or a society that does not recognize me as a lesbian. I believe that unless women in general and lesbians in

particular are able to become intellectually and economically independent, it will be hard to deal with sexism and homophobia.” Albeit, homosexuality is considered a crime in the Cameroons, Victoire is courageously speaking out in the documentary, “Sek Mis – Civil Eyes” which investigates the construction of gay and lesbian identities in the Cameroon through media, politics, and cultural values.



Lewis Hamer, a transfer student at Harold Washington College in Chicago is the recipient of the **Cherie Caldwell Award**. Hamer who will receive his degree in 2013 is majoring in education to fulfill his dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. For several years, he has been active in LGBT organizing through participating in Amigos Latinos

Apayando Siempre (ALAS) a social support group for gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning Latino men where they grappled with such issues as drug abuse, HIV/STD education, dating methods, college/career planning, and domestic violence. Hamer also spends time conducting safe sex outreach at Chicago night clubs and Gay Pride. In 2005, he was briefly featured on an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show titled When I Knew I Was Gay. As a guest, he wanted to change the perceptions about homosexual men of color.

Leicque Doanes, is the recipient of the **ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance) Award**. She is a first semester freshman at Georgia Perimeter College in Atlanta where she plans to study Business Administration Management and Music Education. As a high school student, Doanes mother was very accepting of her sexuality and allowed her to spend many hours volunteering at Gay Pride and at YouthPride: An organization dedicated to service and support for gay,



lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. She is very passionate about education because it will allow her the independent and agency needed as a lesbian woman of color. “This scholarship is going to open up so many doors to my future because people will see that I am an out lesbian and willing to share my struggles and progress with those coming after who may want to follow in my footsteps.”



Sarah Stefana Smith, recipient of the **Margaret Helfand Memorial Award** funded by Judith Helfand, is a Candidate for a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Art at Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont. Since attending Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, Smith has been interested in the relationship between art and activism, and

the restorative qualities photography poses as a medium. “As a queer woman of color, I find myself in the position of being othered in mainstream images of both womanhood and sexuality. Part of the reason I became a photographer is to bring my own unique voice to images. My journey in cultivating an understanding of media studies and photography, and the application of this inquiry to my activism are a set of experiences I am most proud of.” Since 2005, Smith has organized in such diverse communities as Bread and Roses Community Fund, Media Mobilizing Project and the Anti-Displacement Support Committee. “My position as a queer black woman is not simply about standing in solidarity with communities I identify and don’t identify with, but recognizing that to move with my identities and beyond them is to reach for connections. What isolation and poverty speak to are the interlocking systems that are in place to keep poor people of all backgrounds removed and isolated from each other based on regional difference, racial difference, gender and sexuality difference.”

Hosts

Craig Washington, a three time Audre Lorde Scholarship recipient received his Master of Social Work degree from Georgia State University in May, 2008. He currently works as Prevention Programs Manager at AID Atlanta where he is responsible for managing the overall operation of the Deeper Love program for Black gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, the Evolution Center for young Black gay and bisexual men, the comprehensive risk counseling services program (R.E.D.I), and the HIV/STD Testing Clinic.

Simone Bell, a four time Audre Lorde Scholarship recipient received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Creative Writing and English Literature from Agnes Scott College in 2003. She works as a Community Educator for the Southern Regional Office for Lambda Legal: the national organization committed to the achievement of full civil rights of LGBT people and those living with HIV.

Much gratitude to the donors and volunteers who made this weekend celebration possible.

Special thanks to: Kelley Alexander, Attorney Barbara Katz, The Atlanta Dream, Connie Cross, Julia Wallace, Dr. Dionne Bates, Dr. Kathi Martin, Anare Holmes, Carl Proctor, Alene Albritton & Tra Kilpatrick.

Performers

Denitia Odigie was called "the find of the Fest" at the POP Montreal Festival, and she inspired one critic to say, "If you bemoan the lack of passion in singers today, you must see and hear this woman sing."

Just 24, Denitia has drawn inspiration from a veritable rainbow of influences. "In my formative years," she says, "I was learning the words to George Strait and Reba McEntire tunes and rocking out to all the nouveau grunge that was on the radio in the mid-90s. Now I live in Nashville, where this Americana/roots rock/alt-country thing is just in the air." The combination emerges in arresting lyrics and scintillating melodies that bring together otherwise disparate listeners. "Like a butterfly," said one reviewer, "she can be pegged to the page of a single genre and labeled as a certain kind of singer, but she's really most beautiful when you let her just fly free."

Denitia grew up outside Houston, in Baytown, Texas, exposed to the music of Al Green, Smokey Robinson and DC Talk, among many others. When she was 13, her mother bought her a \$100 Stratocaster copy, and her musical journey began in earnest. Within a year, she was leading worship at church. A gifted student, she followed a scholarship to Nashville's Vanderbilt University, simultaneously earning a BA in Art History and becoming engrossed in the city's musical scene. She began performing in a local restaurant and took a songwriting course with a teacher who was, she says, "so encouraging. She was just very positive. And I think that somewhere in the back of my mind I started thinking, 'I really want to do this.'"

At the age of sixteen, **Latonya Peoples** became a certified Suzuki Violin Instructor giving private lessons. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Music Therapy from Howard University in May of 1994. She moved to Atlanta, Georgia in April of 1995 to pursue a career in Music Therapy, Performance, and Private Violin Instruction. She also has classroom teaching experience as an Orchestra Director and a Special Education Paraprofessional in the Clayton County Public School System. worked with several populations including Special Education, AIDS and Psychiatric Patients.

She is also a Professional Performing/Recording Violinist and Vocalist. She has professional experience performing solo, and with ensembles, throughout the United States as a Violinist, Vocalist, Percussionist, and Songwriter. She toured the 2005 and 2006 seasons with UniverSoul Circus, visiting 26 major cities, as a featured Violinist and Vocalist. I was a featured performer with the

LA Women's Fest in 2006. The show aired on national television in January 2007 on the LOGO channel. I can be heard as a Violinist on CDs recorded by Doria Roberts and Left Eye Productions/TLC. She is also the owner and operator of the Lpeop Music and Recording Studio. In my studio she has recorded and produced four CDs displaying my wide range in styles of music. Styles include Original Music, Jazz, Rock, Spirituals, and Folk. She has performed in ensembles opening for Gladys Knight, Michelle NDegeocello, Angelique Kidjo, and Alice Walker. Places performed include The Smithsonian Institution, Howard University w/The Uptown String Quartet, Emory University, Carter Baron Theater, Wolf Trap Theater w/Keter Betts, and The Variety Playhouse.

Curtis Tention is a native of Brooklyn, New York where his love for the arts began to blossom at an early age. He is an honor graduate of Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi where he received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. He also holds a Master of Arts in Humanities from Central Michigan University and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University while teaching first grade and sharing his creativity.

Janiece Thompson began singing gospel music at age four when she started performing with her family "The Thompson Family Singers," touring extensively under the direction of her mother, Ella Mae Thompson, a church music director. Janiece's early foundation in music lead her to study music at Alabama A&M University where she earned her BS in Music. In college she sang in the university choir as well as directed and arranged music for her own a cappella gospel group "Harmony." Harmony's travels afforded them the opportunity to tour in London, England. After college Janiece moved to New York where she earned a reputation as a highly respected concert session singer. She has recorded as feature soloist with Lavender Light Gospel Choir, Richard Foltz's Christmas Album, Laura Wetzler, Pillars of Salt, Nedra Johnson and many other musical acts. She has also appeared on PBS, performed at the 1996 Gay Games and toured with Lavender Light, The crossroad Singers and Pillars of Salt. Since moving to Atlanta, Janiece has performed at various community event, festivals and carnivals including Lady Fest South and Southern Women's Music Festival. Janiece can also be seen performing her show "Sentemental Journey, A Musical Walk Down Memory Lane" at various assisted living homes in and around the Atlanta area. Janiece looks forward to performing with her own band in the upcoming months.

SPONSORS:

Delta Airlines • Holiday Inn Select Decatur • Time to Dine • TH Design • LisaCampbell MEDIA • Bellissima Lounge
The First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta • In the Life Atlanta • Sister Comrade Productions
The Kenneth M. Williams Collective

ZAMI, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

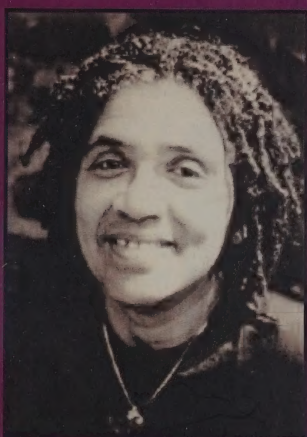
Miya Binta • Beryl Jackson • Aisha Dubose • Mary Anne Adams • Edith Biggers
Gwendolyn Thomas • Arlene Edwards • Louisa McCullough

ZAMI's primary mission is to empower and affirm the lives of lesbians of color through advocacy, leadership development, scholarship funds, discussions, social activities, outreach and education.

404.370.0920 | zami@zami.org
ZAMI, Inc. | P.O. Box 2502 | Decatur | GA | 30031

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund

September 29, 2008



Audre Lorde

"It is not our
differences that
divide us. It is
our inability to
recognize,
accept, and
celebrate those
differences."

~Audre Lorde



**ZAMI: A Carriacou word for
women who work together
as friends and lovers...**



The 2008 Audre Lorde Scholarship Program

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund was founded by ZAMI Board Chair Mary Anne Adams in 1995. Since then, the fund has awarded over \$145,000 in scholarships to out LGBT students who are making notable contributions to their communities. The Scholarship Fund is named in honor of acclaimed author and poet Audre Lorde (1934-1992). She is internationally known as a significant contributor to the struggle for Lesbian and Gay rights and Women's liberation.

For the 13th consecutive year, ZAMI, Inc., the Atlanta organization for lesbians of African descent, is giving scholarships to students within the United States. This year, for the first time, ZAMI has broadened its reach, honoring its first international student – from West Africa. ZAMI feels the world is a much smaller place, due in large part to the emergence of the Internet, with students using the worldwide web to reach out.

The thirteen 2008 Scholarship Recipients, from across the country and now “the world” have been granted scholarships of up to \$2000. Their package also includes transportation to Atlanta and residency accommodations for the celebratory weekend.

Five of the scholarships are named in honor or memory of someone special to the community or the donor. The rest are named in honor of the donor(s). Funds from these and other donors are used to fund this Scholar Weekend, including airfare, lodging, food and program expenses.

HONORARY AWARDS

Mary Anne Adams Community Organizing Award



Mary Anne Adams is board chair and former executive director of ZAMI, Inc. She is the founder and primary organizer of its national Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund for LGBT students of color. A native of Mississippi, she has lived in Atlanta since 1988, during which time she has served on the boards of Charis Circle, YouthPride, and the Feminist

Women's Health Center. She was also an inaugural member of the LGBT Advisory Council to the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Adams holds a Master of Social Work Degree and is a program director with Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health in addition to running her own research development company, The Adams Research Group. She was the first out Black lesbian to win an award as an Unsung Heroine from the metro Atlanta Coalition of 100 black women. Adams has also been honored by the National Center for Human Rights Education as a guardian angel of human rights. A recent breast cancer survivor, she lives her struggle out loud as a tool for education and empowerment. She currently serves as an inaugural member of Susan G. Komen for the Cure National LGBT Advisory Council.

This award is funded by Carol Harrison and Stephanie Troncalli to honor the work of their dear friend and inspiration, Mary Anne

Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award



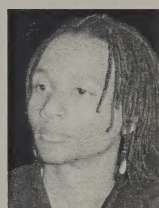
Mandy Carter, a self-described southern out Black lesbian social justice activist, has worked in multi-racial, multi-issue grassroots organizing for the last 39 years. In 1993, she co-founded Southerners On New Ground (SONG) whose purpose is to build progressive movement across the South by developing transformative models of

organizing that connect race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality identity. Carter was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee as part of the “1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005” to recognize, make visible and celebrate the impressive and valuable, yet often invisible, peace work of thousands of women around the world. She lives in Durham, North Carolina.

This award is funded by Germaine Curtin.

MEMORIAL AWARDS

Tony Daniels Community Ally Award



Anthony C. Daniels (1965 – 1998), was one of Atlanta's most powerful organizers and activists. Daniels was a founder of In The Life Atlanta, Inc., of ADODI Muse, Inc., and of the Black Lesbian & Gay Poets Society.

This scholarship is funded by ADODI Muse, Inc: a Gay Negro Ensemble, the Black Gay Male Performance Poets'

Collective. Muse members, Duncan E. Teague, Malik M.L. Williams and Anthony Antoine specifically recognize Daniels' work to build bridges across diverse communities.

The Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award

Margaret Ntombi Howell (1951-2003), as a national spokesperson, transformed the concept of recovery into a universal human experience for all people. She was an advocate and activist for the rights of women, people of color and the poor.

This award is funded by Rhesa Jenkins and Ama Saran.

Margaret Helfand Memorial Award

Margaret Helfand was a Manhattan architect and urban planner who has been recognized worldwide for her innovative approach to design of institutional buildings, interiors, and college campuses. Her designs emphasize clean elemental forms, the use of natural materials and the integration of her buildings with the surrounding landscape. Ms.



Helfand spent the bulk of her career practicing at her own firm, Helfand Architecture, founded in 1981. Breaking through gender typecasting which often relegates female architects to designing houses and interiors, she has executed many large-scale institutional and commercial works. Her firm's designs have won many awards and her work is honored in a monograph published in 1999 by Monacelli Press.

This award is funded by her sister Judy Helfand.

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

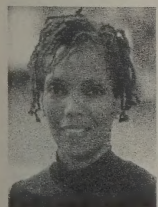
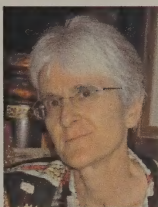


Cherie Caldwell is Managing Director, Human Resources at Delta Air Lines, Inc. Caldwell has global responsibility for Talent Acquisition, Retention and Diversity for the fastest growing international passenger airline carrier. She is accountable for building global strategies and implementing programs to optimize the hiring and retention of critical and diverse talent. Caldwell graduated with honors from the University of Maryland where she majored in Human Resources Management. She currently holds a professional SPHR certification and lives in Atlanta.



Linda Bryant, co-founder of Charis Books and Charis Circle, has been lovingly involved with ZAMI since its inception. Her formal education is in English from the University of Florida and in theology from the Candler School of Theology at Emory, but her life lessons come from her years of daily engagement with the wonderfully

diverse and committed community she meets at Charis, from her long-term love with Wendy Belkin, and from being a parent and now grandparent. Bryant's desire to serve Spirit with integrity and grace is at the heart of her life. **Wendy Belkin** was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She took her last accounting final in August, 1979, got in her car, and drove to Atlanta. She has been here ever since. Belkin practices law and accounting in her own small practice in Decatur and has been a long supporter of Charis Books, Charis Circle, and ZAMI. She is an amateur astronomer and photographer.



Sheryl Burke is a Personal Injury Attorney who operates her own law practices based in Georgia and California. Burke, a native of Los Angeles, California, is a graduate of St. Louis University Law School and is a member of the National and Georgia Trial Lawyers' Association.

Rhesa Jenkins is a Stanford educated scientist with a commitment to continuous education in community settings, such as CAU and ANDP's Ford Foundation program in



Community Economic Development. **Ama Saran's** work is best described as a social ministry that teaches the importance of researching community health, mental and physical, to support the efforts of non-profit organizations in creation of sustainable institutions.



Sarah Crymes is a business woman specializing in healthcare administration (MBA/MHSA from University of Michigan). Her passion is building lesbian and feminist communities in Atlanta. She is currently serving as board chair for Charis Circle and previously served as board chair for Fourth Tuesday. **Rhonda Freeman**, Ph.D, is an engineer who loves all things related to math and science. She also loves her home state of Florida, poodles, swimming and her family. She has been known to have an obsession with puzzles.



Kerrie Cotten Williams is the Archivist for the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History. Williams has a range of experience as a researcher and preservation assistant with rare books and manuscripts, and has taught university-level courses in U.S. History, African-American History and Expository

Writing. In New York, while pursuing her Ph.D in American History at New York University, she worked as a docent for the Lower East Side Museum and Big Onion Walking Tours. Kerrie works with individuals and organizations to make certain that their stories are remembered and retold.

Brenda S. Banks is an independent archives consultant whose current projects include serving as managing archivist for the Morehouse College, Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection; project manager for SOLINET's Gulf Coast Academic Library Recovery Project; and senior project archivist for the Audre Lorde Collection at Spelman College. She is the former Deputy Director of the Georgia Archives where she was responsible for administering the archives program. Banks is a graduate of Spelman College where she received a BA in history and has a Masters in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in archival management, from Atlanta University.





Germaine Curtin, owner of Germaine Curtin & Associates, Attorneys at Law – a practice limited to business matters. She is admitted to practice before the New York, California, North Carolina and Georgia Bars. Ms. Curtin received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Albany and her J.D. degree from Albany

Law School of Union University. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Sandra B. Jones, Ph.D. is from Houston, Texas. Her professional career has been national and international. She provided clinical practice in pediatrics at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, Texas; academic teaching at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; research at the Colorado Sickle Cell Research and Treatment Center; and international work in Japan and Kuwait University. She currently works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention managing cooperative agreements with departments of education at the state and local level implementing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in schools. Her passion is health literacy among children and



adolescents. **Ronald Moore** recently retired from Hewlett Packard after 26 years in a myriad of roles focused mostly in human resources. He presently works with the Kimberly-Clark Company as its Diversity and Inclusion Director. Moore has been involved in various Metro Atlanta organizations, including the Board of



Directors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Medical Center, and Project Open Hand (serving meals to people living with HIV/critical illnesses). A native of Detroit, Michigan, Ronald received a B.A. – Communications, an M.A. – Counseling, and a M.A. – Labor and Industrial Relations—all from Michigan State University. He resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Founded in 1972 (and functioning through 1994), **ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance)** was the first publicly out lesbian organization in Atlanta. Its founding members came from many different social justice and activist backgrounds, including the women's liberation, anti-war/peace, anti-imperialist and socialist, civil rights, and gay liberation movements. It established the first women's only space in the region and made the space available not only for ALFA meetings, consciousness-raising groups and events, but for other lesbian and feminist groups.



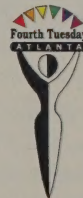
Elder Jones proudly serves as the pastor of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church (who funded this award) located in Southwest Atlanta. In addition to his work as a pastor Elder Jones also served as a member of the Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Health Care Services Planning Council, Pastoral Care Department of AID Atlanta at Grady

Hospital, President of the Board of Directors for the National Aids Education and Services for Minorities (NAESM) and a member of the Advisory Board of United Way, Inc. Elder Jones is also a Georgia State Department of Human Resources Certified HIV Prevention Counselor and a Certified HIV Fundamentals Instructor. From 1999 -2001 Elder Jones served as Chair of In the Life Atlanta, Inc. the organization the produces Black Pride in Atlanta each year. During his tenure as Co-Chair he was able to convince Hartsfield Airport to display a banner to welcome the constituents of Black Pride. This was the first time in the history of Black Gay Pride that this had ever happened.

Stephanie Troncilli and Carol Harrison have been impressed and inspired by ZAMI for many years, supporting their efforts as much as possible through their design firm, TH Design. Stephanie, a Georgia State graduate, is currently a Product



Director with Eclipsys Corporation, a healthcare software solutions company with clients nationwide. She is also working on her Masters in Public Health degree with a focus on Disaster Management. Carol who attended the University of South Florida in Tampa, and "retired" from her previous life in corporate management, heads up their graphic design firm in Decatur. They are honored to be able to support ZAMI this year with funding for the inaugural year of the Mary Anne Adams scholarship award – for the first international scholar. In their 16 years together they have shared their vision and support with numerous nonprofit and political efforts and are pleased to have the opportunity for this enhanced relationship with ZAMI this year.



Fourth Tuesday is a diverse, nonprofit organization serving the LGBT community in Atlanta and the Southeast. It has been dedicated to providing a safe, caring, and welcoming environment for business networking and social events for over 20 years. **The Atlanta Lesbian**

Health Initiative promotes the health and well-being of lesbians through education, advocacy and support services.



**ATLANTA
LESBIAN
HEALTH
INITIATIVE**

The 2008 Audre Lorde Scholars



Loc Vu, recipient of the **Rhonda Freeman-Sarah Crymes Award** and the **Elder Antonio Jones Award**, is working towards a Masters degree in Business Administration from West Valley College in Saratoga, California. Vu and her family were resettled from Vietnam by the United States during the war torn years. She shares that the feat

of trying to find her way in this country was very difficult. "My family was stripped of our identity and culture but my parents held steadfast to traditional family roles and expectations and I learned early that to be different meant non-acceptance." Vu said she had to overcome internalized homophobia and family discrimination to find acceptance for her sexuality. "My proudest personal experience was finding acceptance within myself to live as a Vietnamese queer woman." She has utilized her Bachelor's degree in Psychology by volunteering with youth and adults who are dealing with coming out issues and need a safe harbor.

Dawn Robinson, recipient of the **Sheryl Burke Award**, recently returned to college to complete her undergraduate degree after a 25 year hiatus. She enrolled in Berkeley City College in Berkeley, California where she is studying English and Creative Writing. Accordingly to Robinson, "I have spent the past 25 years attending to what Abraham Maslow calls 'deficiency needs': physiological, safety, love/ belonging and esteem. In each area, I have accomplished well beyond my family legacy." Most recently, she has shared her expertise as a Personal Trainer with butch, transitioning and transgender folks in order to help stem the tide of heart disease and Type2 diabetes. She believes lack of healthy self-care is the largest obstacle we face and that we have the power to change – that when we care for our bodies, our minds and our spirits. Robinson says, "Wars, poverty, homophobia or disease do irreparable damage, to be sure, but even these cannot completely eradicate us, that is why our own behavior is the larger threat. Healthy physical and emotional self-care means that we will be here for ourselves, our friends and our families. Here, not just surviving on the planet, but fully present, conscious beings. We can do something revolutionary in America, yet again. We can be whole."



At 29 years of age, **Kendra Nicole Bryant**, recipient of the **Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotten Williams Award** has spent the last ten of them teaching high school and college students. Currently pursuing a PhD in English Rhetoric and Composition, at the University of South Florida in Tampa, with Concentrations in Rhetorical Pedagogy,



Popular Culture, and Harlem Renaissance, Bryant asserts that one of the major problems facing the LGBT community is

its youth's struggle to claim their identity in this postmodern society. "Because I realize the need for children and young adults to witness lesbian women who do not fit the stereotypes as portrayed in mass communications, I have committed myself to being an "out of the closet" instructor. As a result, I have participated in LGBT discussion panels on University of South Florida's campus, as well as shared poetry that reveals my sexual identity during various poetry readings throughout the Tampa Bay area." She founded a nonprofit organization geared towards freeing marginalized, downtrodden people of color through writing initiatives. Bryant calls her organization F.I.S.T., which is an acronym for Fightin' Ignorance, Spittin' Truth.



Jardyn Lake, recipient of the **Mandy Carter Award** is in her last year of a Bachelor's program at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania focusing on African American Studies. She comes from a family of powerful, brilliant, and independent women. "Unfortunately, most of the women in my family have lived lives

of selfless labor and have never had the opportunity to go to college. But they have always instilled in me the notion that education is a means of liberation." However, Lake says that despite the boldness of the women in her family, the general belief is that women are to be seen and not heard. "I refuse to let my life be dictated by these limiting roles. The present patriarchy perpetuated within my family has certainly made me strive to redefine what it means to be a woman and challenge patriarchy around me. I also try to build alliances and friendships with women who actively resist patriarchy." Those alliances have been build through leadership training opportunities with Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Seeds of Fire: Youth Organizing & Leadership Institute, Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN) Inc., Jacksonville Playback Theatre, Metrotown Teen Diversity and the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC).

As the first female in her family to attend college, **Tyaire Wilkerson**, recipient of the **Fourth Tuesday/ Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative Award** is in her first year at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida where she is studying English/ Writing. Her primary goal is to become a published writer of poetry and short stories. Wilkerson maintains that writing her Memoirs is a very important goal because she wants to use her life story as an example of courage and achievement. "My mother has never and will never accept my sexual orientation. She believes it is a great sin against God. She demeans my relationships and calls the love I feel for my girlfriend a mockery. Because of her outrage and indifference, I have learned to accept all cultures and people for who they are. I now fight for LGBT rights and for other



people who are discriminated against every day.” She asserts, “It is not my job to worry about what the world will think of me. It is my job to tell the truth. To be open and vulnerable because I know that there’s some girl or boy out there looking, just like I did, to someone or something for comfort.”



David Green, recipient of the **Tony Daniels Community Ally Award** is working toward a Masters degree in African American Studies with a concentration in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. For several years, he has given his energy to Habitat for Humanity and the AIDS

Network and is currently working with students at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee to get a Queer People of Color (QPOC) established on its campus. Green exclaims that teaching and educating others are his life’s passions melding both his race and sexuality in the pursuit of justice. “Due to the hegemonic and divisive systems at play in America, systems that deny African Americans and gay men and women ‘equal opportunity’ I have chosen to become an EDUCATOR, not simply a university professor or a teacher. I can profess my love for books and teach a student the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. But to educate a person, man or woman, heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or transgender is to teach them the value of love of self and of others; the true purpose of activism.”

Yolo Akili, recipient of the **Linda Bryant & Wendy Belkin Award** is well known as a social justice advocate and for fighting against human rights abuses. He currently serves on the Atlanta Queer Literary Festivals Board Committee and is also a founder of ATL Queer Men’s Collective, which is a group, dedicated to addressing male privilege and sexism in Queer communities. He is also a co-founder of Da C.R.I.B.B, a community center for Queer youth dedicated to HIV Prevention in the metro Atlanta area and regularly performs poetry all across the country on LGBTQ issues and healing for the larger world community. Akili is studying Iyengar Yoga Theory & Practice at the Yoga of India in Atlanta. He says, “Studying Yoga philosophy and practice is a part of my desire to expand that reach of resistance work to also include the ‘everyday work’ of self care, self knowledge, self healing and self-awareness. It has been my experience as an activist that these two vehicles for liberation have had limited dialogue with each other. This, I believe, has caused major strife and limitations in our abilities as a collective to effectively organize. As a Yogi I plan to work principally with underprivileged communities and ‘revolutionaries’ to help them deal with the stressors of their lives.”

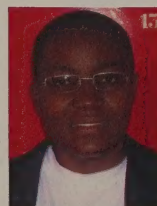


Joshua Johnson, recipient of the **Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award** is a first year Law student with a minor in Social Justice and Public Interest at the University of California at Berkeley. He is emphatic that his identity as a Black gay male is critical to framing his unique experiences. “Young Black men in this country are underrepresented

in academia, especially law school. Being a gay man of color, my concerns as a law student will be different from many others’, and I will contribute a pool of knowledge and a perspective that is not always represented. In South Los Angeles, many people who come from backgrounds similar to mine think that higher education is not for them. My ability to overcome that mindset lets me know that with persistence, I can disrupt the cycle of low educational attainment by not only advancing myself, but also empowering others.” Reared by a single mother in a socio-economically disadvantaged household, Johnson was the first in his household to earn a bachelor’s degree and was also able to study abroad in Spain after mastering Spanish. Ever vigilant against injustice, he has spent many volunteer hours tutoring at risk children, working on HIV/AIDS issues, and providing Spanish Interpreting skills at a Children’s hospital. “I have an obligation to use my privileges to be a voice for those who have become accustomed to living in the periphery.”

Kristen Brown, recipient of the **Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award** funded by Rhessa M.

Jenkins & Ama Saran is pursuing a PhD degree in Public Administration and Policy from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She wants to devote her academic and professional life to policy issues that specifically affect LGBT people, working toward a day when their human rights will no longer be debated. She is headed toward becoming perhaps the first openly gay African American and the first openly lesbian female to publish in the field of public administration and policy specifically on LGBT policy issues. Brown’s research interests include health policy, particularly HIV prevention and services for African American LGBT people. Her specific area of focus is communication for African American lesbian and bisexual women in the area of sexuality – including relationships, pleasure, safer sex, and sexual health and well being.



Sylvie Victoire, a graduate student at the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering in Burkina Faso, West Africa is the recipient of the **Mary Anne Adams Community Organizing Award** funded by Carol Harrison and Stephanie Troncalli. She writes of the enormous struggle to study Engineering

dominated by men in the Cameroon. “Obtaining an education is the only way to support myself without having to depend on men or a society that does not recognize me as a lesbian. I believe that unless women in general and lesbians in

particular are able to become intellectually and economically independent, it will be hard to deal with sexism and homophobia.” Albeit, homosexuality is considered a crime in the Cameroons, Victoire is courageously speaking out in the documentary, “Sek Mis – Civil Eyes” which investigates the construction of gay and lesbian identities in the Cameroon through media, politics, and cultural values.



Lewis Hamer, a transfer student at Harold Washington College in Chicago is the recipient of the **Cherie Caldwell Award**. Hamer who will receive his degree in 2013 is majoring in education to fulfill his dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. For several years, he has been active in LGBT organizing through participating in Amigos Latinos

Apayando Siempre (ALAS) a social support group for gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning Latino men where they grappled with such issues as drug abuse, HIV/STD education, dating methods, college/career planning, and domestic violence. Hamer also spends time conducting safe sex outreach at Chicago night clubs and Gay Pride. In 2005, he was briefly featured on an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show titled When I Knew I Was Gay. As a guest, he wanted to change the perceptions about homosexual men of color.

Leicque Doanes, is the recipient of the **ALFA (Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance) Award**. She is a first semester freshman at Georgia Perimeter College in Atlanta where she plans to study Business Administration Management and Music Education. As a high school student, Doanes mother was very accepting of her sexuality and allowed her to spend many hours volunteering at Gay Pride and at YouthPride: An organization dedicated to service and support for gay,



lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. She is very passionate about education because it will allow her the independent and agency needed as a lesbian woman of color. “This scholarship is going to open up so many doors to my future because people will see that I am an out lesbian and willing to share my struggles and progress with those coming after who may want to follow in my footsteps.”



Sarah Stefana Smith, recipient of the **Margaret Helfand Memorial Award** funded by Judith Helfand, is a Candidate for a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Art at Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont. Since attending Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, Smith has been interested in the relationship between art and activism, and

the restorative qualities photography poses as a medium. “As a queer woman of color, I find myself in the position of being othered in mainstream images of both womanhood and sexuality. Part of the reason I became a photographer is to bring my own unique voice to images. My journey in cultivating an understanding of media studies and photography, and the application of this inquiry to my activism are a set of experiences I am most proud of.” Since 2005, Smith has organized in such diverse communities as Bread and Roses Community Fund, Media Mobilizing Project and the Anti-Displacement Support Committee. “My position as a queer black woman is not simply about standing in solidarity with communities I identify and don’t identify with, but recognizing that to move with my identities and beyond there is to reach for connections. What isolation and poverty speak to are the interlocking systems that are in place to keep poor people of all backgrounds removed and isolated from each other based on regional difference, racial difference, gender and sexuality difference.”

Hosts

Craig Washington, a three time Audre Lorde Scholarship recipient received his Master of Social Work degree from Georgia State University in May, 2008. He currently works as Prevention Programs Manager at AID Atlanta where he is responsible for managing the overall operation of the Deeper Love program for Black gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, the Evolution Center for young Black gay and bisexual men, the comprehensive risk counseling services program (R.E.D.I.), and the HIV/STD Testing Clinic.

Simone Bell, a four time Audre Lorde Scholarship recipient received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Creative Writing and English Literature from Agnes Scott College in 2003. She works as a Community Educator for the Southern Regional Office for Lambda Legal: the national organization committed to the achievement of full civil rights of LGBT people and those living with HIV.

Much gratitude to the donors and volunteers who made this weekend celebration possible.

Special thanks to: Kelley Alexander, Attorney Barbara Katz, The Atlanta Dream, Connie Cross, Julia Wallace, Dr. Dionne Bates, Dr. Kathi Martin, Anare Holmes, Carl Proctor, Alene Albritton & Tra Kilpatrick.

Performers

Denitia Odigie was called "the find of the Fest" at the POP Montreal Festival, and she inspired one critic to say, "If you bemoan the lack of passion in singers today, you must see and hear this woman sing."

Just 24, Denitia has drawn inspiration from a veritable rainbow of influences. "In my formative years," she says, "I was learning the words to George Strait and Reba McEntire tunes and rocking out to all the nouveau grunge that was on the radio in the mid-90s. Now I live in Nashville, where this Americana/roots rock/alt-country thing is just in the air." The combination emerges in arresting lyrics and scintillating melodies that bring together otherwise disparate listeners. "Like a butterfly," said one reviewer, "she can be pegged to the page of a single genre and labeled as a certain kind of singer, but she's really most beautiful when you let her just fly free."

Denitia grew up outside Houston, in Baytown, Texas, exposed to the music of Al Green, Smokey Robinson and DC Talk, among many others. When she was 13, her mother bought her a \$100 Stratocaster copy, and her musical journey began in earnest. Within a year, she was leading worship at church. A gifted student, she followed a scholarship to Nashville's Vanderbilt University, simultaneously earning a BA in Art History and becoming engrossed in the city's musical scene. She began performing in a local restaurant and took a songwriting course with a teacher who was, she says, "so encouraging. She was just very positive. And I think that somewhere in the back of my mind I started thinking, 'I really want to do this.'"

At the age of sixteen, **Latonya Peoples** became a certified Suzuki Violin Instructor giving private lessons. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Music Therapy from Howard University in May of 1994. She moved to Atlanta, Georgia in April of 1995 to pursue a career in Music Therapy, Performance, and Private Violin Instruction. She also has classroom teaching experience as an Orchestra Director and a Special Education Paraprofessional in the Clayton County Public School System. worked with several populations including Special Education, AIDS and Psychiatric Patients.

She is also a Professional Performing/Recording Violinist and Vocalist. She has professional experience performing solo, and with ensembles, throughout the United States as a Violinist, Vocalist, Percussionist, and Songwriter. She toured the 2005 and 2006 seasons with UniverSoul Circus, visiting 26 major cities, as a featured Violinist and Vocalist. I was a featured performer with the

LA Women's Fest in 2006. The show aired on national television in January 2007 on the LOGO channel. I can be heard as a Violinist on CDs recorded by Doria Roberts and Left Eye Productions/TLC. She is also the owner and operator of the Lpeop Music and Recording Studio. In my studio she has recorded and produced four CDs displaying my wide range in styles of music. Styles include Original Music, Jazz, Rock, Spirituals, and Folk. She has performed in ensembles opening for Gladys Knight, Michelle NDegeocello, Angelique Kidjo, and Alice Walker. Places performed include The Smithsonian Institution, Howard University w/The Uptown String Quartet, Emory University, Carter Baron Theater, Wolf Trap Theater w/Keter Betts, and The Variety Playhouse.

Curtis Tention is a native of Brooklyn, New York where his love for the arts began to blossom at an early age. He is an honor graduate of Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi where he received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. He also holds a Master of Arts in Humanities from Central Michigan University and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University while teaching first grade and sharing his creativity.

Janiece Thompson began singing gospel music at age four when she started performing with her family "The Thompson Family Singers," touring extensively under the direction of her mother, Ella Mae Thompson, a church music director. Janiece's early foundation in music lead her to study music at Alabama A&M University where she earned her BS in Music. In college she sang in the university choir as well as directed and arranged music for her own a cappella gospel group "Harmony." Harmony's travels afforded them the opportunity to tour in London, England. After college Janiece moved to New York where she earned a reputation as a highly respected concert session singer. She has recorded as feature soloist with Lavender Light Gospel Choir, Richard Foltz's Christmas Album, Laura Wetzler, Pillars of Salt, Nedra Johnson and many other musical acts. She has also appeared on PBS, performed at the 1996 Gay Games and toured with Lavender Light, The crossroad Singers and Pillars of Salt. Since moving to Atlanta, Janiece has performed at various community event, festivals and carnivals including Lady Fest South and Southern Women's Music Festival. Janiece can also be seen performing her show "Sentemental Journey, A Musical Walk Down Memory Lane" at various assisted living homes in and around the Atlanta area. Janiece looks forward to performing with her own band in the upcoming months.

SPONSORS:

Delta Airlines • Holiday Inn Select Decatur • Time to Dine • TH Design • LisaCampbell MEDIA • Bellissima Lounge
The First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta • In the Life Atlanta • Sister Comrade Productions
The Kenneth M. Williams Collective

ZAMI, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Miya Binta • Beryl Jackson • Aisha Dubose • Mary Anne Adams • Edith Biggers
Gwendolyn Thomas • Arlene Edwards • Louisa McCullough

ZAMI's primary mission is to empower and affirm the lives of lesbians of color through advocacy, leadership development, scholarship funds, discussions, social activities, outreach and education.